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Urban District of Bedworth

ANNUAL
REPORT

— OF THE —
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1946

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BEDWORTH.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
BEDWORTH.

August, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.
Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting a statistical report on Public Health matters for the year 1946.

The statistics as a whole are satisfactory. There were 462 births in the district, as against 442 in 1945. The death rate of 9.6 per thousand of the population shews an increase over 1945 figures, although it compares favourably with that of England and Wales, which gives a death rate of 11.5 per thousand civilian population. This increase in the death rate is not caused by any single disease, but slight increases are shewn in respiratory systems, heart disease, and deaths by violence. The infantile mortality rate, which is the number of children dying before reaching the age of one year, per thousand live births is 41.1, as against 43 for England and Wales. The total number of children dying under the age of one year was 19, and, of these, 11 were under four weeks, and nine children died before reaching the age of one week.

The main outstanding Public Health problems are housing, disposal of sewage, and water supply.

Very great efforts have been made by the Council to deal with the shortage of houses, and it has been a disappointment that houses have not gone up as quickly as was hoped. At the present rate of building, it will be a very long time before we are in a position to say that the housing problem is solved. There are between 800 and 900 applicants for houses in our town. Many of our townsfolk have to live in overcrowded houses, many in houses which should have been pulled down long ago, newly-married couples in rooms, with very little hope of obtaining houses in the near future. It will be a very happy day in the Health Department of your town when we can start a housing drive against unsatisfactory houses, but, until houses are available, it is impossible to take the necessary action under the Housing Acts, as, although a house may be unsatisfactory, it is better than no house. No-one is more anxious than the Officers of the Health Department to see houses allocated to deal with the many, many houses which should be dealt with under the Housing Acts.

The disposal of sewage in parts of the town still causes much anxiety. The main area which should be dealt with at

the earliest opportunity is Bulkington. A sewerage scheme is in the course of preparation for this area, but has not yet come to fruition. It is hoped that a start will be made on this scheme in 1947. There are still in the town 300 cesspools and 430 pail closets, which should not exist in a town of this size. It is fully realised that these matters are very difficult to deal with at the present time, due to shortage of labour and materials, but, until the whole of these matters are cleared, one will not be in a position to say that the sanitation of the District is satisfactory.

The water supply of the District has time and again been discussed by your Committee and the Council. We are not in a very happy position as regards water supply for the whole of the town. The following is a quotation from a report received by the Council from the Water Engineer, which speaks for itself:—

“The total amount of water received from all our resources is 470,000 gallons per day, and to maintain a level in the reservoir we are having to take an additional amount of 30,000 gallons per day from Coventry. This goes to show that all our pumps at the various sources of supply must run continuously night and day, year in and year out, without allowance for breakdown, and then not have sufficient water to meet the present demand. As the building of houses progresses, which undoubtedly it will do by the middle of the year, the worse the water position will be, particularly at Bulkington, and I urge that the suggestion I made at a previous meeting *re* the provision of a reservoir and booster at Bulkington Water Tower, a new pump with a capacity of not less than 30,000 gallons per hour at Bedworth Waterworks, together with a new source of supply, should be carried out without further delay.”

On this report, at the beginning of 1947, the Council decided to look round for additional water supply, and it is hoped that, in the 1947 report, one will be able to report a more satisfactory condition as regards the amount of water available in this area. Details of the water supply will be found in the body of the report.

I returned from service abroad in April, 1946, and, since my return, I would like to record my great appreciation of the helpful way the Chairman and the members of the Health Committee have always dealt with matters brought before them; and I would also like to thank them for the many valuable suggestions made for the betterment of the Health of the people of our town. To the Staff of the Health Department, I would like to record my very sincere appreciation of the loyal work they have carried out during the year.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Smith, and Gentlemen,

P. G. HORSBURGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

BEDWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health Committee

Chairman : Councillor E. W. RICHARDS

Councillor A. BUTLER	Councillor F. BENN
Councillor S. L. MARSHALL	Councillor J. A. GRANT
Councillor E. TYLER	Councillor H. R. STAPLES
Councillor J. McMAHON	Councillor J. LUCKMAN
Councillor W. J. FARNDON	Councillor F. L. PERKINS
Councillor Mrs. A. E. SMITH	

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health :

*† P. G. HORSBURGH, G.M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health :

*† G. K. G. COOTE, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat and other Foods Inspector,
Cleaving Superintendent, etc. :

†† CHARLES E. DEAKIN, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Cert. Meat and Other Foods

Clerk :

† Miss F. LEACH

Public Vaccinator :

* C. S. APPLEYARD, M.B., Ch.B.

Clerk of the Council :

† MAURICE ARMSON, F.C.R.A.

Engineer and Surveyor :

† D. BLENKINSOP, A.M.I.M., E.

Water Works and Sewage Works Manager :

† C. S. B. COOPER

Members of the Council :

Chairman : Councillor J. A. GRANT

Vice-Chairman : Councillor A. BUTLER

Councillors J. T. GALLAGHER, J. McMAHON, I. NEALE,
L. JONES, L. E. GRANT, F. BENN, E. TYLER,
E. W. RICHARDS, E. C. WADDAMS, W. DAY,
Mrs. A. E. SMITH, H. R. STAPLES, J. LUCKMAN,
S. L. MARSHALL, W. J. FARNDON, T. F. DEWIS,
W. L. SHORTRIDGE and F. L. PERKINS.

* Part-time appointment.

† Full-time appointment.

† Salary contribution by Exchequer grants.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area of the District ... 7,913 acres

Population of the District ... 22,580

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Totals	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Live Births ...	234	216	—	12	234	228

462

Birth Rate :—20·4605 per 1,000 population.

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Totals	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Stillbirths ...	3	7	—	2	3	9

12

Stillbirth Rate :—0·531 per 1,000 population.

			Males	Females		Total	
Deaths	113	...	106	...	219

Death Rate :—9·6988 per 1,000 population.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate ... 19

Illegitimate ... — Total 19

Infantile Mortality Rate :—41·1255 per 1,000 live births.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

From Sepsis ...	—	} Total: NIL.
From other causes ...	—	

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... —

„ „ Whooping Cough ... —

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... 1

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1946

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
All Causes	113	106	219
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory system	13	7	20
Tuberculosis—Other Forms	1	3	4
Syphilitic Diseases	2	—	2
Influenza	2	1	3
Measles	—	—	—
Ac : Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Ac : Inf : Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer	17	17	34
Diabetes	1	2	3
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	8	18	26
Heart Disease	24	20	44
Other Diseases of circulatory system	1	2	3
Bronchitis	6	6	12
Pneumonia	10	3	13
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	3	6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhoea—under 2 years	1	—	1
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3	4
Nephritis	—	5	5
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	1	2	3
Congenital Malformation, birth injuries ; infantile diseases	5	3	8
Suicide	1	2	3
Road Traffic accidents	1	1	2
Other Violent Causes	6	3	9
All Other Causes	9	5	14

INFANTILE MORTALITY

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS, 1946

Causes of Death	under 1 week	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 4 wks	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total under 1 year
Prematurity ...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Congenital defects ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Birth injuries ...										
Infantile diseases ...										
Tubercular Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septic Scarlet Fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	1	2	1	1	1	—	5
Gastro Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Asphyxia ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus ...	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Totals ...	9	—	1	1	11	4	2	2	—	19

INFANT DEATHS—WARD

Ward	Males	Females	Total
Bedworth East ...	2	—	2
„ West ...	6	2	8
„ North ...	1	1	2
Exhall East ...	—	1	1
„ West ...	—	2	2
Bulkington ...	2	2	4
Foleshill ...	—	—	—
	11	8	19

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Infectious Diseases.—The Council are in agreement with the Corporations of Coventry and Nuneaton to receive into their Isolation Hospitals cases of infectious disease occurring in the Urban District of Bedworth.

Small-pox.—The Council are in agreement with the Corporation of Coventry to receive into their Pinley Small-pox Hospital cases of Small-pox occurring in the Urban District of Bedworth.

Tuberculosis. The King Edward Memorial Hospital, Hertford Hill, is provided by the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee, and is available to patients residing in the Bedworth Urban District.

Maternity.—No Hospital is provided, but private and urgent cases are taken into the Coventry & Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry, the Nuneaton E.M.S. Hospital, and the Nuneaton General Hospital.

General.—The Bedworth Urban District is served by the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.

Orthopaedic.—Patients from the Bedworth Urban District can be sent for consultation and treatment to the Orthopaedic Clinic, "Dunsmore," Holyhead Road, Coventry.

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious Diseases. Infectious disease patients are now removed to hospital by ambulances provided by the Coventry and Nuneaton Corporation hospitals.

Accident. The town motor ambulance is at present controlled by the County Council under Civil Defence arrangements.

LABORATORY WORK

Specimens of sputum, throat and nasal discharge, etc., are forwarded to the University of Birmingham for examination, the result being communicated to the Medical Officer of Health and to the medical practitioner sending the specimen. Outfits for taking these specimens are supplied by the University Pathological Department. In urgent cases outfits can be supplied on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare. The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is situated in Saunders Avenue, Bedworth. The work of this clinic is supervised by a voluntary committee and, in addition, services are provided by the County Council. A school clinic is also maintained at this centre by the County Council.

Tuberculosis. Patients attend dispensaries at Coventry and Nuneaton for treatment provided by the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

Venereal Disease. Free treatment is provided by the County Council at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General. One voluntary Nursing Association.

(b) Infectious Diseases—Nil.

Midwives. There are 4 midwives practising in the Urban District, none of whom is subsidised by the Council.

CLINICS

Service	Situation of Premises	Days Open	Authority Responsible
Maternity and Child Welfare :			
Welfare Centres	Child Welfare Centre Premises, Saunders Avenue, Bedworth.	Mondays and Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m.	Warwickshire County Council
	Cricket Pavilion, Bulkington.	Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.,	Ditto
Ante-Natal Clinic	Child Welfare Centre Premises, Saunders Avenue, Bedworth	Alternate Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Ditto
School Medical Service :			
Treatment and Inspection Clinic	Ditto	Mondays and Thursdays, 10 to 12 noon	Ditto
	Ditto		
Eye Clinic	Ditto	Fridays, 9.30 to 12 noon when arranged	Ditto

WATER CONSUMPTION

The average daily consumption of water in the District during 1946 was:—

Domestic	380,000 gallons
Trade	30,000 gallons
Bramcote	50,000 gallons
Bulkington & Shilton for Rugby R.D.C. ...	1,000 gallons
TOTAL	461,000 gallons

The maximum consumption of water in any one day for all sources was ... 477,000 gallons

The latest chemical and Bacteriological analyses are as follows:

CHEMICAL.

Results expressed in parts per 100,000.

	<i>Exhall Deep Well</i>	<i>Newdegate No. 1 Borehole</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia	0·0024	0·0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·0024	0·0032
Chlorine in Chlorides	17·00	7·60
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	Absent	0·12
Oxygen absorbed from perman- ganate at 80°F. in 4 hours ...	0·021	0·005
Total Solids dried at 100°C. ...	108	68
Appearance	Bright, many small brown particles	Bright, few small particles
Nitrite	Trace	Absent
Free Chlorine	Absent	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

EXHALL DEEP WELL.

Colony Count of Bacteria per
c.c. at 37°C. 0
at 20°C. 50
Presumptive Coli-Aerogenes
Test—Absent from 50 c.c.
Streptococci are absent from
50 c.c., and the spores of *B.*
welchii are absent from 100
c.c. of this water.

NEWDEGATE No. 1 BOREHOLE.

Colony Count of Bacteria per
c.c. at 37°C. 3
at 20°C. 10
Presumptive Coli-Aerogenes
Test—Absent from 50 c.c.
Streptococci are absent from
50 c.c., and the spores of *B.*
welchii from 100 c.c. of this
water.

Population of Statutory Area	20,412
Population supplied into Houses	18,241
Population supplied by standpipes	1,904
Total population directly supplied	20,145
Population without piped supplies	267
Total hereditaments supplied	5,832
Houses with standpipes	544
Standpipes	186
Wells used for domestic supply	76

No. of samples submitted for analysis:—

	<i>Raw Water.</i>	<i>Treated Water.</i>
(a) Chemical	4	4
(b) Bacteriological	8	3

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector

PREMISES	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	20	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	—	—	—
Workplaces (other than Outworker's premises)	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	20	—	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

INSPECTIONS BY SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1946

To Dwelling Houses.

Disinfections after infectious disease (rooms)	...	55
Disinfections for vermin (rooms)	... ..	42
Re infectious diseases	... ..	50
For drain testing...	... ..	8
Inspections under Housing Acts	... ..	—
Re inspections under Housing Acts	... ..	—

To Other Premises.

Factories and Workshops	... ..	20
Shops Inspected	... ..	73

To Food Preparing Places.

Fried Fish Shops	... ..	25
Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds	... ..	81
Bakehouses	... ..	15
Butchers' shops, Stalls, and Vans	... ..	43

NUISANCES ABATED

Dwelling Houses—

Defective walls and ceilings repaired	... ..	21
Roofs repaired	... ..	19
Chimneys repaired	... ..	7
Spouting repaired or new provided	... ..	12
Defective floors repaired or renewed	... ..	24
Fireplaces repaired or rebuilt	... ..	13
Coppers repaired or rebuilt	... ..	8
Yard paving repaired	... ..	3
Windows renewed or repaired	... ..	21
Wash houses repaired	... ..	5
New water services laid on	... ..	4

Drainage, etc.—

Drainage cleared from obstruction	... ..	32
Drainage inspection chambers provided or repaired...	... ..	6
Ventilating shafts improved	... ..	5
Defective drains relaid	... ..	7

Closet Accommodation—

Water closet cisterns repaired or renewed...	... ..	31
New w.c. basins and traps provided	16

Domestic Refuse—

Dustbins provided	28
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Factories and Workshops—

Unsuitable sanitary accommodation improved	—
--	--------	---

MILK SUPPLY

Premises in which cows are kept	...	...	38
Number of milk retailers, other than producers resident in district	...	...	61

HOUSING**(a) Statistics**

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority...	...	2
(b) By private enterprise	...	39

Houses demolished during the year were as follows :—

Individual unfit houses	..	..	..	Nil
Houses included in clearance areas			..	Nil
Parts of houses closed	..	..	..	Nil

DISINFECTIONS

The disinfection of all premises, houses, bedding, etc., is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector after cases of infectious diseases. Steam infection is available for bulky goods, such as bedding, etc. Spraying or fumigation with Formalin is the method employed in houses.

Number of rooms	97
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SALVAGE

				Tons	cwts.	qrs.
Waste paper	49	10	—
Rags	—	—	—
Bones	—	15	—
Ferrous metal	—	—	—

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936**EXTRACT FROM REGISTER**

Premises licensed for storage of Petroleum	...	32
Premises licensed for storage of Carbide	...	1
Premises licensed for storage of Petroleum Mixtures	...	7
Total storage capacity of Petroleum Tanks	36,020 gallons	
Total storage capacity of Carbide Store	...	448 lbs.
Total storage capacity of Petroleum Mixtures Containers	...	5,230 gallons

FOOD CONDEMNED DURING 1946

DETAIL	Weight		
	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
15 tins of meat			23 $\frac{1}{4}$
161 tins and jars of fruit, jam, milk, vegetables, fish, etc.	1	1	19
Bacon and Ham		3	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cheese			24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Decomposed sausages			24
Fish and fish cakes		2	8
394 Eggs		1	21 $\frac{1}{4}$
TOTAL WEIGHT	3	3	19$\frac{3}{4}$

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—WARDS

DISEASE	W A R D							
	Bedworth E.	Bedworth W.	Bedworth N.	Exhall E.	Exhall W.	Bulkington	Foleshill	Total
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	6	9	4	2	6	1	2	30
Diphtheria ...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	4
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
P'typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	4
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	3
Measles ...	64	78	66	13	25	6	2	254
Whooping Cough ...	14	6	12	1	7	38	1	79
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	7	10	5	2	6	1	—	31
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Membranous Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1946

New Cases					Deaths			
Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1								
1- 5				1				2
5-10	1			1			1	1
10-15	1	1		1				
15-20	2	4				1		
20-25	3	3	1		1	3		
25-35	8			2	6	1		
35-45	2	1			3	1		
45-55	6	1			1	1		
55-65		1			1			
65-over	1				1			
Totals	24	11	1	5	13	7	1	3

ISOLATION HOSPITALS

CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL, 1946

DISEASE	NUNEATON		COVENTRY		TOTAL	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever ...	8	13	—	—	8	13
Diphtheria ...	2	1	—	1	2	2
Cerebro S. F. ...	—	1	1	1	1	2
Dysentery ...	1	1	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Chicken Pox ...	1	—	—	—	1	—
	12	16	1	3	13	19



